

LITERARY NEWS VIEWS AND CRITICISM

LUKE OF THE BLANK SHEET OF PAPER

NEW BOOKS.

A Story of Action and Plot.

E. Phillips Oppenheim Still Under the Spell of Authors—
HIS WORK AND HIS PLAY

Thirty Novels to His Credit Finds His Materials Whichever Men Gather.

That ferocious spirit of yours E. Phillips Oppenheim, who already at a comparatively youthful age, has some thirty novels to his credit, says that there is no more difficult question for an author to answer than that of how he came to take up writing.

"I think about it," he says, "that I have no idea why I started to write in my younger days. I had a passion of myself to educate and to watch the new description of my limited past, mostly a passing phase and interesting period. The time came when, however, and the usual small measure of success which perseverance generally commands, encouraged me in me to take up the profession of story writer seriously."

"It was 15 years old when my first short story was published, and only 20 when my first novel appeared. I have since had more than twenty years of story writing, and the first thing which occurs to me to say about it is that I don't think there can be another profession which maintains its hold upon its disciples to such an extraordinary extent."

"I spent nearly all day before starting these few lines trying to avoid being egomistical. I have now given up the idea. One can write about one's own work without being egomistical. That's the entire, are my personal experiences and feelings."

"I don't know how to account for the fact that 15 years old I sat down to compose a story with exactly the same thrill as now. The love of process of sport of sex and romance, the call of scintillating scenes, the gay and unusual power, however, they may still remain to me the secret of their grip and vice-fascination with the passing of the years. No, so far as right of that bank-note of pay."

"The introduction of romance, the virgin field into which she is about to plunge, never loses its magic glow and irresistible fascination. Personally, I can't account for it. I don't try. Sometimes it seems to me that it is all the all one's in life one hopes for the particular idea which it evokes."

"There is always something curious about the gestures of an author and son. Perhaps it is the most improbable belief that on earth there exists a woman who sits and waits there will come the most wonderful idea that has ever dawned upon the brain of a writer of fiction, something of which due gesticulations have passed through her brain when one is half asleep and half dressing. Every writer of fiction knows what it is the will of the wags of the hand law. With the morning their lights go out, but they do their good work, though done in the dark."

"The moderate amount of success which my stories have enjoyed enables me to write them in the manner I like best. I live in a cottage upon the coast, with a view of the North Sea from my windows, excellent full baths with a few yards and plenty of room about, with a large library containing many books, and Lady Edward was diverted and delighted. And Lady Edward was diverted and delighted, said Lady Edward. She was as prettily dressed as a girl."

"My work itself is accompanied with the help of a secretary. My wife does much to help me to get my ideas out of my head, and I have found my ideas would come so much faster than my fingers could work that I have prayed for some more speedy method of transmission. Now I usually dictate my manuscripts to my typewriter, and to my secretary, who then transcribes them roughly by means of a typewriter and from these sheets I dictate the final effort subject to the inevitable revision."

"These things of course are not the only things that help me. I have a few writers friends told me that they found it impossible to dictate satisfactorily myself from the very first moment found it by far the most effective method of getting my work out of paper. This is naturally a matter of individual experience."

"I have never, I am sorry to say, been a great traveller. I have visited in a cursory fashion most European countries, and I have been to the United States a dozen times, but save a regard for influence, upon my work, I would prefer to remain at home and spend the rest of my days in London."

"It is not out of mind to humor readers into scenes and events taking place in a country in which I have not lived. If Rolf, a dozen theologians and squares in London, a handful of engineers, the poor, who are the chief of great nations, are quite sufficient for the production of more and greater stories than I have ever written. The real centres of interest to the world seem to me to be the places where human beings are gathered together, the great business centers, the great cities, and the like. When I have to make the acquaintance of a capable and comfortable housekeeper, and the hero of an earthenware with nothing of his former weakness for drink, is delightfully kind and fair seeming and absent minded in his pleasant house and garden in Oxford. Of the two nice boys we see little, as well as of the impulsive small girl who rules them through one scene, they serve merely to introduce the heroine, a young person with the artistic temperament who wins the old scholar's heart and ends by going on the stage. The scenes between the child and the old man are charming, though the author's strong notes of bittersweet at times Mrs. Harriet has the knack of making children attractive and their elders entertaining, she apparently does not waste much time on the construction of her story or in making the episodes hang together."

The scheme of Mr. Harold Bindloss' stories of the new Northwest, with the descriptions of scenery and outdoor life and the practical deeds of his heroes is pretty well established by this time. In "Vane of the Timberlands" (Frederick A. Stokes Company), which appears in England under a different title, "The Protection," he varies it, we regret to say, in an artful manner; he apparently feels

that he has a call to preach directly and to show the superiority of character and life in the new country by exhortation instead of by example. The forceful hero likes to help young women in distress. The misinterpretation of his motives which gets him and them into trouble belongs to a more sophisticated society than that of British Columbia. His faithful comrade's sole function seems to be to watch the hero with amusement and to comment on his actions. The contrast between Canada and England is drawn in strong lines. There is an enterprising small English girl that the reader would wish had been made more of.

It is a nightmare tale of hellish sort classes after important papers that Mr. Gordon Holmes tells in "The House of Silence" (Edward J. Clode, New York), and not a detective story. To be sure, there are two detectives in the story, one of whom cross-examines on matters that the reader already knows of, while the other, who is differentiated by being made in love with the young woman in the case, joins in the actions of the other lunatics. He and they have the passes in their hands in turn, but instead of putting them in safety persists in hiding them in places where their opponents can find them. The tragedy on which the story turns is ingenious, but the reader's head will ache with the steady chase up steep rocks into open windows and through a dark house over and over again. Generalities as an explanation spoils any mystery tale.

The opening of Mr. Charles Sherman's "He Comes Up Smiling" (The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis) is capital. The three tramps are amusing and the tone is of the broadest farce so that it may not come into consideration. When one comes, however, in the degree he has become falls in love with a parlor maid, and makes her love him. While the sentimentality makes the story monotonous, an effort is made by crude comparison between the dishonesty of tramps and that of capitalists. The author shirked the description of his hero's rehabilitation to leave that to the reader's imagination. We fear that much of the glamour of the "open road" remains with disappearance when the reader meets with the real knights of the road, such as the author began to describe.

A slight but pretty love plot, which readers with plenty of leisure and good nature may enjoy, is the subplot of Mr. Charles D. Stewart's "The Wrong Woman" (Houghton Mifflin Company). It was on the circumference occasion when Lady Edward was making the serious accusation that Manuel had stolen her diamond necklace that she called her brother in the hall—an old barrister and an old hell cat. For some time the Amazons listened to his scurrilous, venomous, expressions. Then, in language of the story, "Stop, Victoria" thundered Lord Lansdale with great indignation. I cannot allow you to say that to yourself, he said. And I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily, Am I to understand then, Mr. de Menezes, that you have been trifling with my affections and leading me on to harm my very soul to you. I have no time for your contempt!" Closing here eyes and squeezing tightly her lids over her eyeballs she asked haughtily